

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 00877 311918Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 /049 W

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P R 311724Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7254

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBSSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

ZNE/AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI 1455

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 877

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, OVIP ((IAKOVOS, ARCHBISHOP)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS

REFS: A. ATHENS 661

B. ATHENS 684 (NOTAL)

1. ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS SPENT A WEEK IN ATHENS DURING WHICH HE SAW PM CARAMANLIS TWICE AND MET WITH ANUMBER OF MINISTERS AND OTHER GOG OFFICIALS. HE ALSO MET WITH THE AMBASSADOR TWICE.

HE DEPARTED JANUARY 30 AND EXPECTS TO RETURN TO NYC AROUND FEBRUARY 8 AFTER STOPS IN GENEVA, PARIS, AND LONDON. IAKOVOS WILL PROBABLY CONTACT DEPARTMENT AFTER HIS RETURN AND IS LIKELY TO SEEK AN APPOINTMENT WITH SECRETARY, OR POSSIBLY EVEN THE PRESIDENT, TO REPORT HIS IMPRESSIONS.

2. IN HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS, WHICH WERE WIDELY REPORTED IN REEKP PRESS AND TV, IAKOVOS SPOKE IN SUPOORT OF US POLICY WHICH HE EXPLAINED IN FAVORABLE TERMS. WHILE ARCHBISHOP FOUND GREEK PUBLIC CONCERNED AND DISCORUAGED AT TIME OF HIS ARRIVAL JANUARY 23, HE REPORTED AN IMPROVING MORALE IN GREECE JUST BEFORE HIS  
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 00877 311918Z

DEPARTURE IN FINNAL ENGLISH-LANGUAGE INTERVIEW (DEAN BRELLIS,

CBS/TIME).

3. AT AIRPORT BEFORE DEPARTURE, ARCHBISHOP CALLED EMBOFF PRESTON ASIDE AND ASKEHD HIM PASS ON TO AMBASSADOR SEVERAL POINTS WHICH HE SAID CAME OUT OF HIS LUNCHEON MEETING WITH CARAMANLIS PREVIOUS DAY:

(A) IAKOVOS SAID PM REPEATED HIS EARLIER COMMENT (REFTEL B) THAT HE FAVORED MEETING SOON OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF GREECE, TURKEY, AND US TO DICUSS GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS.

(B) ACCORDING IAKOVOS, CARAMANLIS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN GOG RECEIVING FIRM, CLEAR, AND FRIENDLY CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT FORD OF OCCASION MARCH 25 ANNIVERSARY GREEK INDEPENDENCE. PM PARTICULARLY DESIRED THIS MESSAGE STRESS CLOSE BONDS BETWEEN GREEK AND AMERICAN PEOPLES, IAKOVOS AID.

(C) IAKOVOS ALSO SAID PM EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SENDING DELEGATION OF YOUNGER GREEK DEPUTIES TO US AS RETURN GESTURE FOR RECENT CODEL VISIT WHICH INCLUDED BRADEMAS AND SARBANES TO PROMOTE CLOSER INTRA-PARLIAMENTARY RELATIONS.

4. IN ADDITION TO ABOVE WHICH HE ATTRIBUTED TO PM, IAKOVOS MADE SEVERAL POINTS TO PRESTON WHICH ARE PRIMARILY, OR EXCLUSIVELY, HIS OWN. HE SAID PRESIDENT SHOULD INVITE CARAMANLIS TO VISIT US THIS YEAR, PERHAPS IN SEPTEMBER. (COMMENT: ANY SUCH PROPOSAL SHOULD BE MOST CAREFULLY EVALUATED.) AS ASIDE, HE ADDED CARAMANLIS TOLD HIM THAT HE HOPED TO LEAD GREEK GOODWILL DELEGATION TO US SOME TIME DURING 1976 BI-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION. AS PART OF HIS OWN PROGRAM TO IMPROVE GREEK AND AMERICAN RELATIONS, IAKOVOS HOPES TO CONVENE THE ANNUAL MEETING OF HIS CHURCH COUNCIL IN ATHENS THIS JULY.

5. ALTHOUGH IAKOVOS SOMETIMES SLANTED HIS VIEWS, ACCORDING TO HIS AUDIENCE, ALL OF HIS PRESS INTERVIEWS CONTAINED CONSISTNET AND SUPPORTIVE THEMES: U.S. POLICY TOWARD CYPRUS WAS AND IS EQUITABLE, WAR BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY IS UNTHINKABLE, AND GOOD GREEK-AMERICAN RELATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL. IN DEPARTURE  
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PAGE 03 ATHENS 00877 311918Z

INTERVIEW WHICH WAS HOWN ON NATIONAL TV LAST EVENING, IAKOVOS SAID (POLITICAL) LEADERS ARE CONVINCED OF NEED OF KEEPING PEACE AND IT IS GENERALLY ACCEPTED THAT MILITARY CONFLICT BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY IS INCONCEIVABLE..."THOSE WHO MAKE PRO-WAR STATEMENTS SHOULD BITE THEIR TONGUES." HE SAID GREEKS IN AMERICA ARE TRYING TO CONTRIBUTE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE ON ALL ISSUES THAT HELP THE MOTHER COUNTRY.

6. THE PRESS OF THE EXTREMES--REACTIONARY ESTIA AND COMMUNIST AVGHI--BITTERLY CONDEMNED IAKOVOS' ANALYSIS OF THE ISSUES, WHILE THE MORE MODERATE PRESS SIMPLY EXPRESSED VARYING DEGREES OF SURPRISE REGARDING THE BASIS FOR HIS OPTIMISM. HIS PRO-PEACE STANCE, WHICH WAS CAPPED IN A SERMON DELIVERED AT ATHENS CATHEDRAL AND BROADCAST ON NATIONAL RAKOS, COINCIDED WITH GOG'S OWN PRESS CAMPAIGN TO DAMPEN WAR HYSTERIA.  
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